

Before 1600-

Pequots and the Mohegans were the same Indians who migrated from the Hudson River area to Massachusetts and then came South to Connecticut Valley.

1614

Adrian Block was the first white man to sail up the Connecticut River.

1626

Uncas, a sagamore in the Pequot tribe, married Sassacus' daughter in Montville.

1633

Wopigwooit, chief of Pequots, was slain by the Dutch. The Pequots supported Sassacus, son of Wopigwooit. Uncas fled to the Narragansetts for safety.

1635

Thomas Hooker, with a group of followers, settled in Hartford.

1637

Uncas joined Mason's expedition against the Pequots in Mystic. Mason burned the fort, the remaining Pequots broke up and fled to New Haven and Fairfield.

1638

Uncas organized a tribe of Indians from other tribes. He gave the tribal name of Mohegan and again made his headquarters in Montville. (Pequots who came from Hudson area were originally named Mohegans. The band called themselves Pequots in honor of their schem, Pekoath.)

After the Pequot War and the death of Sassacus, Uncas became the most powerful chief in Connecticut.

1643

Great Plains battle took place. Miantonomo, schem of the Narragansetts, planned to kill Uncas. Their two armies met on East Great Plains, where Uncas outwitted Miantonomo. Miantonomo was caught and later slain by a brother of Uncas.

1657

The Narragansetts, under Pessacus, besieged Fort Shantok. The Indians were saved by Thomas Leffingwell, John Mason, and Rev. James Fitch.

1659

Uncas, Owaneco, Attawanhood, Indians of the Mohegans, deeded the site of Norwich to these men and others of Saybrook. The amount paid was 70 pounds. Bozrah was a part of Norwich. Waterman, Leffingwell, Fox, Hough, Fitch, and Crocker were the early settlers of Bozrah.

1682

Uncas died and was buried in Norwich. (Sachem Street)

1690

John Pease built a corn mill on his farm in Bozrahville (Gilman), which was the beginning of manufacturing in Bozrah.

1730

N. Waterman and Capt. Joshua Abel established an iron works factory in Fitchville where Gardner and Pease Brooks unite. The cannon balls supposedly were used in the Revolution. This mill was afterward owned by Col. Asa Fitch, the village deriving its name from him.

1737

Present site of Bozrah formed a parish and took the name of New Concord. The original church is now called Bozrah Central Congregational Church. The original church was rebuilt in 1815. Town meetings used the basement. The basement was used as a Town Hall until 1949.

1786

Bozrah was incorporated, separating the town from Norwich. The new name of Bozrah, instead of New Concord, was probably suggested by Rev. B. Throop, the first pastor in Bozrah. The meaning of the word is "sheepfold".

1787-1865

Date of Col. Asa Fitch. Col. Fitch built a stone dam near factory forcing waters to furnish water power for his iron works mill and a cotton mill. He operated the mills until his death in 1865. He also erected a dwelling known as a "mansion", a school house, a village church, a store, a recreational hall, a grist mill, and dwelling houses all of stone.

1796

The first Bozrah School Meeting is recorded. The town school money was raised by taxing each man according to the number of children attending school. Each family boarded the teacher, one week for each pupil sent.

1814

Bozrah Mfg. Co. was formed in Gilman for the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods. The factory building burned in 1889 and families were forced to move elsewhere. The industry passed into many hands until the present owners, Gilman Bros.

1885

1815

A September gale blew down houses and serious damage resulted. The year was known as "the year without a summer". There was a frost every summer month.

1823

A flood washed away every bridge in Bozrah. The Fitchville Iron Works was entirely swept away.

1865

Upon the death of Col. Asa Fitch, the cotton mill was operated by his brothers until it was sold to Waterman Co. In turn it was sold to the Goddards of Providence who manufactured cotton cloth until the mill was destroyed by fire in 1884.

1884

With the burning of the cotton mill, families moved away and Fitchville became a deserted town. Palmer Bros. bought the site for a quilt mill. The mill was enlarged twice.

1907

A. C. Gilman of New York bought Bozrahville (Gilman) factory. Shoddy was manufactured.

1905

The stone school house in Fitchville was enlarged and made into a 2-room school under the direction of Wm. H. Palmer, who bore the entire cost.

1909

The seven district school of Bozrah came under town management.

1912

The town schools came under state supervision.

1949

The town bought the Palmer Bros. Recreational Hall, built by Asa Fitch, this is the present Town Hall building.

Palmer Bros. ended their quilt business.

The Bozrah Volunteer Fire Co. uses the former coach-house, built by Asa Fitch, as its headquarters.

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This information may have contradictions. It is only my hope that the child in possession of this paper will continue to study the fascinating history of Bozrah and enjoy it as much as I have.

Mrs. H. Anderson
Grade 4
1963--64

HISTORY OF BOZRAH

Do you ever think when you look about you and see the houses, roads, bridges, telephone lines, well-tilled fields and other marks of civilization, that once none of these every-day signs of cultivated living existed here? Have you ever thought about the age of your town or who the first settlers were or how they lived and dressed and thought? Perhaps you never have thought of these things before but now shouldn't you like to know the answers to many questions like these? Some one has thought that you would and we have undertaken to find the answers to some of these questions for you and while this little book may not tell you all you may wish to know about your town's history, perhaps, after having read it, you will be better acquainted with Bozrah than you were in the past.

Chapter I

Settlement and Organization

Who do you suppose first lived in Bozrah? You are quite right in answering "The Indians lived here before the white men came". They roamed about here not seeing the same out-of-door pictures you do each day but knowing only a stretch of hilly land much more thickly wooded than now and well sprinkled with stones of varying sizes many of which you now see in stone fences surrounding fields in the various farms. Even the water views were then different as we shall see when we read about manufacturing.

We are glad to be able to tell you that these Indians, who were of the Mohican tribe, were not forced by the white people to leave this land nor did they wage war upon them in later years. On the contrary they were glad to sell it cheaply to their white friends in exchange for a favor bestowed upon them by Saybrook settlers. You remember from your history reading that one of the chief occupations pursued by the Indians was fighting and our Bozrah friends were no exception to this general rule. Perhaps their greatest enemy was the fierce tribe living east of them, the Narragansett Indians. A little before 1660 Uncas, the chief of the Mohican Indians, was forced by the Narragansett Indians to retreat to a point of land extending into the Thames River, probably opposite Poquatannock. Hemmed in on all sides he must surrender unless aided by powerful friends. In some way Uncas got word of his peril to his English friends at Saybrook. Immediately Ensign Leffingwell, "an enterprising, bold man" loaded a canoe with beef, corn and peas, and peddled into the Thames River. In spite of great peril he succeeded in reaching the Mohican stronghold where, tradition loves to relate, the food was suspended on poles as evidence to the Narragansett Indians that there was an abundance of food within the fort and no discomfort. It may be that the Narragansett Indians believed that the Great Spirit intervened against them. Be that as it may, they withdrew, to the delight and relief of the Mohican tribe.

You have learned that as the Indians never forgave an injury so likewise they never forgot a kindness and were eager to show their appreciation to their Saybrook friends by selling them for seventy pounds, in 1660, a tract of land nine miles square, which was called Norwich, and which included the present town of Bozrah. When the deed was drawn up it was signed by Uncas and his brothers, Owaneco and Attawanhood, and as they were not able to write their names in English characters they used the Indian symbols instead. The white witnesses of this deed were John Mason, the famous leader in the Pequot War, and Thomas Tracy. The first settlers to make their homes within this nine mile square were Puritans from Saybrook who made their near the head of the Thames. As their numbers increases some moved to the south, some to the north, some to the east and some west-

ward. The first families to live in the part of Norwich now called Bozrah were the Waterman, Hough, Fox, Gager, Baldwin, and Croker families but the exact date of their coming or the order in which they came we are unable to determine.

Perhaps you would like to be able to locate two of the homes of these early settlers. The Fox house is standing on the north side of Bozrah street not quite opposite the road which leads to the Gager home. This house was at one period in the town's history an inn or tavern and this word is synonymous with our modern term - hotel. Bozrah Street was formerly a part of the old road by way of Scott Hill between Norwich and Colchester. The Fox house was a convenient stopping place for travelers, who refreshed themselves and rested and fed their tired horses as was the custom in those days. On the top floor may still be seen the old amusement hall. Take a good look at the west side door for we are going to tell you something about that door later on. The Waterman house on the Yantic road just west of W.W. Bentley's would not be recognized by its builder so many changes and additions it has seen. At one time this house was known as the Clermont House and was also an inn and has its amusement hall. In a large field just west of the house may be seen traces of a half mile race track which was used when the famous Hamiltonian horses were bred on the farm. None of the other first houses are now standing, but there are many houses which with their additions are more than one hundred years old. The house on Bashon Hill owned by Jeremiah Murphy and the Charles Johnson house are thought to be among the oldest houses standing in the town.

By 1780 a goodly number of people were living in the part of Norwich now called Bozrah and at that time referred to as the New Concord Parish and the people desired to be separated from Norwich and become an independent town. They could then have their own town meetings and manage their schools and other affairs to please themselves and no doubt these people had decided that their tax bills would be less each year if separated from the center of population where the cost of schools, roads, and bridges was much more than in their own little community. Accordingly a committee of four consisting of Reverend Benjamin Troop, Nehemiah Waterman, Asa Woodworth and Jabez Hough was appointed to present the matter to the voters of the town of Norwich for consideration. After much discussion and deliberation a favorable answer was given the petitioners and in 1786 New Concord was incorporated a separate town under the name of Bozrah.

The name may have been suggested by Mr. Troop on account of the original meaning of the word which signified sheepfold. Town tradition however given this explanation of how the town derived its name. In old times it was considered an honor to be appointed a juryman and those who acted in that capacity arrayed themselves in parliamentary colors. One day as the Judge in the Norwich court sat waiting with others for a tardy juryman from New Concord they saw him approach on horseback. As he drew near the Judge quoted this passage from the Bible, "Who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed garments from Bozrah?" (Isaiah LXIII, I). From that time this man was referred to as the man from Bozrah and gradually New Concord came to be called Bozrah. We think it safe to say there is not another town of the same name in the country.

No doubt the Bozrah people felt very proud of the day of their first town meeting which was held June 26, 1786 in the meeting house then standing a quarter of a mile southwest of the present Center Church. The Reverend Benjamin Troop was moderator and the following officers were elected. Selectmen: Benjamin Troop, Nehemiah Waterman and Asa Woodworth. Town Clerk: Ebenezer Backus. Treasurer: Captain Isaac Huntington.

The early town meetings were held in the meeting house of the New Concord Society and when the new meeting house was erected in

1815 the town paid the Society four hundred dollars for the privilege of using the basement as a Town Hall and it was ~~been~~ used for such until 1904, when stone amusement hall built by Colonel Asa Fitch, was made into the present town hall (1964).

As Bozrah was set apart from Norwich it has the right to send but one representative to the General Assembly. The first representative elected from Bozrah was Captain Isaac Huntington.

The amount of the grand list of Bozrah in 1786 was 6822 pounds, 6 shillings, and 5 pence, a sum equal to about \$34,000. This means that the value placed upon all the farms, houses, live stock and other property in the town was \$34,000. In 1870 the amount had increased to \$616,000 but in 1889 because of the cessation of business at Bozrahville the amount had dropped to \$452,000. At the present date, 1916, the grand list is \$527,918 *, the rate of taxation being 4 mills on the dollar. We read in the minutes of a town meeting held in December, 1786, record of a tax of 3 pence on the pound for providing for the poor. This would be about 12 mill tax for road repairing and 10 mills for the support of the poor. At that time there were a great many poor in the town and these were auctioned off to the highest bidder for one year to be kept "in sickness or in health". A little later it became the custom to serve a notice on persons, who were likely to become a burden to the town, warning them to leave the town before they could gain the right of residence here. The following forceful document is a copy of an old warning served on Delight Hartshorn in 1787.

"To Delight Hartshorn, a mulatto woman, a transient person now residing in the town of Bozrah. You are hereby warned to depart forthwith out of said town with yourself and effects and never return to reside again in said town at the peril of the law.

Dated at Bozrah, December 3, 1878
(Isaac Huntington
Selectmen (Asa Woodworth
(John McCall

History failed to recount the future wanderings of Delight but we hope she found a welcome home elsewhere.

II Church History

Religion was very dear to the hearts of the Norwich settlers and as soon as a group of people had settled in the part now called Bozrah they desired to have a church and resident minister in their community rather than attend the more distant church first erected in Norwich. Accordingly, as early as 1715, permission was given the inhabitants of this town, then a portion of Norwich, to form a parish but being unable to support a minister they were not regularly organized until eighteen years afterward when they took the name of New Concord Parish and were released from all obligation to support the ministry of the first society on condition of maintaining a gospel minister at least six months of the year. The church was organized and Reverend Benjamin Troop was ordained the first pastor, January 3, 1739. He was an efficient pastor for forty-six years. The original meeting house of the New Concord Society, now called Bozrah Center Congregational Church, was rebuilt in 1815 on its present site. Some of the timbers of the old building were used and Colonel Asa Fitch aided most liberally in the erection of the new building. Later, Mrs. Fanny Raymond nee Fitch, gave the land where the parsonage was built. A branch church was organized from this Society at Bozrahville in 1828. This church never had a settled pastor but services were held there as late as 1900. At this time, there was a Jewish synagogue in Bozrahville.

The Fitchville Church was erected by Colonel Asa Fitch and dedicated in 1852. It was non-sectarian, preachers of different denominations supplying the pulpit. All salaries were paid by Mr. Fitch while he lived and he bequeathed a fund to this church the interest of which helps to support the church at present, (meaning 1916 when this was written). After the cotton mill at Fitchville was destroyed by fire, 1884, and many families removed from the village, the church was for a time closed but after the Palmer Quilt industry began operations and people returned or new settlers came, the church was reopened in 1887 as a Baptist denomination. Previous to this a Baptist Church had been organized at Leffingwell which you will read more about when you study about that settlement.

Pioneer Catholic families came to Bozrah about 1840 and located at Fitchville and Bozrahville. The nearest Catholic Church was at Greenville and they attended services there on Sundays, walking both ways, except when the one priest in the state, who rode from one Catholic community to another, came to Bozrah. In that case, services were held in some private home. For many years Mass was said in the home of Mrs. Ann Kingberger. When the number at Fitchville became too large to be accommodated in a house the people obtained permission to hold services in the Palmer Hall. Fitchville was then, as now, a mission church, first connected with the Colchester Parish and a priest came to the village from Colchester, at first once a month, later twice a month and finally about 1895 it was made possible to have services in the village each Sunday. In 1893 the Fitchville congregation secured land from Everett Stark on which to erect a church. The corner stone was laid in October of that year and the following June the church was dedicated as St. John's. In 1900 Bishop Flanagan, transferred St. John's to the Sacred Heart Church in Norwich Town, under the spiritual direction of the Rev. Francis Lawlor. The Bozrahville Catholic congregation at first worshipped in the school house at Bozrahville but about 1854 erected a church, St. Mary's, but their place of worship stands in the town of Lebanon.

III

Education

Among the early Bozrah settlers love of education stood next to their love of religion. Records of Bozrah School meetings as far back as 1796 are preserved. The first meeting recorded was held in the meeting house of the New Concord Society, October 24, 1796. A moderator and clerk were chosen and a school committee of three members was elected for one year. After appointing Messrs. Elias West, Terubbel Wightman and Asa Fitch "to confer with the ancient town of Norwich about our part of the old school money in their hands" the meeting adjourned for one week. At a later meeting we find another vote to recover this money but no record of its ever being received. Little is recorded of these early meetings except the election of officers and while we know the first public school was established at the site of the present Bozrah Center School we do not know the exact date of the opening session. At a school meeting held October 30, 1799, a committee of nine was appointed to divide the school society into districts. The following April the committee submitted a report of its work which was accepted. At this meeting reference was made to the Leffingwell District showing that it had been set off previously. Several petitions are recorded of people who wished to be set off to a different district and when a transfer was made it always states "and draw his public money accordingly". This had reference to the state money which had been received for several years. These trans-

fers seems to have been the cause of much discussion at these meetings.

Until 1909, at the annual town meeting, a hiring committee, consisting of three members, was appointed each year and before this committee the candidates for teaching positions appeared to be examined. The examination was oral and sometimes lasted almost entirely through the day. If judged by the committee to be eligible to teach the applicant received a teaching certificate for a year which might be revoked by the hiring committee if deemed expedient. Each district had its treasurer, secretary, and hiring "committee-man" who engaged the teacher for that district subject to the approval of the town committee. Each school was visited twice each term, sometimes by the three members of the town committee and the district "committee-man", and sometimes by one member of the town board of education. Usually on these "inspection" days the pupils were given oral test questions and examples at the board. Later they listened to "remarks" by one of the visitors which aimed to inspire the pupils with zest to acquire all necessary school virtues.

At first, as was the custom everywhere in New England, reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling were the only subjects taught. Pupils wrote in those days with quill pens. The copy which they practiced during the writing period was "set" by the teacher and was usually a common maxim as, "A stitch in time saves nine", and was written repeatedly while the writing lesson lasted. To be a good speller was considered a great accomplishment and spelling matches were often held in the schools. There was also much competition between the pupils of the different districts for spelling honors and inter-district evening spelling matches were held at intervals during the winter when the parents and friends assembled to witness the defeat or success of the district each favored. Schools were in session during these early days until a few years ago from 9 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon with an hour's intermission for dinner. A resident of Bozrah who attended school here sixty years ago gives the order of exercises for a school day as follows: 1 Testament reading. (Each pupil had a testament and in turn read a verse from some chapter designated by the teacher.) 2 Geography, 3 Arithmetic, 4 Writing, 5 Reading from a reading book, 6 Grammar, 7 History, 8 Spelling.

The teacher's wage in those days was about one dollar and a half a week and board. The teacher was boarded free by the parents of the children whom she taught. The time spent in each home was in proportion to the number of children attending school. About 1856 we are told, teachers were receiving about two dollars and a half per week with board.

The first school houses were small and each built with a fire place. Fuel was supplied by the parents sending children to school, a certain amount being required for each child. There were no individual seats or desks in the first school houses but long shelves extended along three sides of the room a convenient distance from the floor to serve as desk. The pupils sat on long benches with their backs to the teacher. When they recited they swung about and faced the pedagogue. Small libraries were purchased by most of the schools in the early days but the Latin grammars and similar books found in these old collections would be considered of little literary value today.

At a town meeting held October 8, 1909, it was voted to place the seven school districts into which the town had been divided late in the eighteenth century under town management.

abolishing district school officers and placing the schools under the direct management of a town board of education, consisting of three members to be elected or re-elected yearly.

Another important change was made in the town school system when at a town meeting held in October 1912 it was voted to place the town schools under state supervision. Under this arrangement the state sends to the town each year, at the expense of the state, a supervisor who directs the work done in the schools outlining a specific amount to be taught in each subject for each of the eight grades children must pass through before being admitted to a higher course of training. Mr. L. T. Carrison, of Willimantic, was appointed supervisor of schools in Bozrah by the state board of education soon after this October meeting and made his first official visit in the town December 3, 1912. Under his efficient guidance marked progress has been noted along educational lines.

Some money is expended by the town each year in improving the school buildings and at present most of the school property is in excellent condition. In 1905 under the direction of the late William Henry Palmer, who was a member of the state board of education and who took a deep interest in educational matters, the stone school house at Fitchville was enlarged and made into a two-room building. A little later modern improvements and school accessories were added, making this one of the best equipped country school houses in the state. The entire cost of the work was borne by the Palmer Brothers who operate the quilt mill at Fitchville.

Each year the town appropriates five dollars for each school to be used with the state appropriation of the same amount for the purchase of library books. Besides fitting each school with a library the town has purchased at the time of writing, ninety-eight sets of books of informational and entertaining reading material by the best writers which are exchanged among the schools. The value of placing such an amount of good literature in the hands of children cannot be over-estimated.

The present standing of the schools in Bozrah is largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Frank Palmer who came to the town with a wide knowledge of school work and who, since her election to the school board in 1910, has been actively engaged in bettering school conditions.

At present thirty-eight hundred dollars is the average cost of maintaining the town schools each year. (1964 the average cost of maintaining the one school (Fields Memorial) is \$

IV

Economic and Social Life

The colonial houses were large frame buildings built with immense stone chimneys having fire places sufficiently large to burn wood four feet in length. Wide outer doors were arranged so that back logs could be drawn into the kitchen by a horse. The Fox house on Bozrah street, which was for many years an inn, is built in this way. Huge brick ovens were built beside the fire place in which all baking was done. Roasting was done on a spit before the open fire.

Nearly all the furniture was made by local cabinet makers although some homes boasted of mahogany furniture brought from England.

The clothing worn by the majority of the early Bozrah settlers was made from wool or flax raised on the farm and carded, spun, woven, and fashioned into garments by the women in the homes. This was before the invention of the sewing machine and all stitching was done by hand. Knitting was one of the accomplishments of the women and misses of those days who knitted all the stockings, mittens, tippets and wrist-bands worn by the entire household.

Nearly all the food was raised on the farm. Bread was made from rye flour or rye and corn meal. Very little wheat flour was used, except on special occasions, as Thanksgiving Day and Election Day. Quantities of pork and beef were raised and almost every matron made cheeses. These and other farm produces not consumed at home were marketed in Norwich. Pork brought from five to six cents per pound; beef, four to five; corn, forty to fifty cents per bushel; potatoes, twenty to thirty cents per bushel; eggs, ten to twelve cents per dozen and butter, ten to twelve cents per pound.

At the Congregational Church, which was the only church in Bozrah in the early times, two sermons were preached each Sunday and everyone was expected to attend both morning and afternoon services. The congregation carried their lunch and dined between services. In pleasant weather the children walked barefoot to church until they neared the place of worship when they added shoes and stockings to their wearing apparel. This church had a tithing man and it was considered a dire disgrace to receive a reprimand from him. This reprimand was a rap, slight or heavy according to the offense, from a long stick and was given for sleeping, whispering, laughing or being otherwise disorderly during the service. The morning and afternoon sermon lasted not less than two hours each, even in the extremely cold weather.

In the early part of the nineteenth century Bozrah boasted three lyceums, one at Bozrahville, one at Fitchville and one at Bozrah Street. Here debates were held. Two of the prominent speakers and regular attendants at these meetings were Peter Pettis, who was the mail carrier for many years, and Oramel Johnson.

Travel in those days was largely by horseback, the wife, when she went to town, riding behind her husband on a pillion. Mail was carried on horseback in saddle bags and on days when school was in session the mail carrier stopped at the school house and left the mail with the children to be carried home. "The Norwich Aurora" was the principal mail matter and if by chance someone received a letter it at once became the source of much speculation as to its author and import.

The spelling match and singing school were the chief social functions during the winter months. Quilting bees and house raisings combined industrial accomplishment with labor. At quilting bees the neighbors assembled usually in the evening to knot quilts for quilts were home made in those days. At house raisings the men gathered to raise the heavy timbers which formed the framework of the house. These services were free of charge, but the hostess assisted by the other ladies of the neighborhood, served a bountiful New England repast to the willing workers and the evening was then spent in merry-making by the young and story telling or social chats by the older people.

V

Incidents in Bozrah History

In September, 1818, Bozrah was swept by a terrific storm which

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has been since referred to as the September gale. Houses were blown down, trees uprooted and serious destruction and damage resulted. In 1816, the house occupied by the late John Gager was built from timbers saved from trees blown over in this gale. The year 1816 was known as the year without a summer. In May ice formed a half inch thick on ponds and streams. There was frost every month, consequently no corn was raised and very few crops matured. Seven years later Bozrah had the greatest freshet ever known in its history. Every bridge in the town was carried off, it is said, and the Fitch Iron Works were entirely swept away.

VI Historic Places

People plowing have unearthed Indian arrow heads in different parts of the town which may have been aimed at prey but we are now going to tell of a place in Bozrah which is believed to be a real Indian battle field and where the arrow heads were sent against Indian enemies. This field is a meadow, level and wide, located east of the Center school. Great numbers of arrow points have been found there, many of which are of rock formation differing in composition from any rock material in this vicinity and suggesting that a hostile tribe living at some distance used them in a battle fought on this plain. Of course you will wish to visit this field.

On the Stark farm, now owned by Anson Berges, is located a mineral spring owned by Everett Stark who kept a right-of-way to the spring when he sold the farm. This was known to the Mohican Indians as "Medicine Spring" and they visited it each spring, camping near for two or three weeks. When the grandfather of Mr. Stark purchased this farm the owner told him of the Indian practice and said he need have no fear when they made their annual visit as this was their custom and no one had disputed their right. As late as 1808 the tribe still visited this spring and for many years after Indians came in smaller numbers and carried away quantities of the water in jugs and other vessels. For many years and until rival enterprises were afield this spring was of commercial value to Mr. Stark who shipped the water to points as far removed as Poland, Maine, and cities in Delaware. At one time, some years ago, a pavilion stood enjoyed.

Bargey Ledges, in the southern part of the town, are noted for their picturesque beauty. A road leading down the ledges appears almost perpendicular at the distance and in winter time is at times impassible. Here the wild birds and flowers may be studied amid wild and rugged scenery. Standing on the Gager farm are gigantic oak trees which stood massive and strong one hundred years ago. Lovers of fine old trees often come to the town to view these giants and yet many of the Bozrah inhabitants do not know they exist.

You may be interested in the story of the town pound and the Bozrah toll gate. In the early history of New England nearly every town had its pound. This was a shed or rude barn where stray cattle, or those that were a nuisance, were shut up until the owner redeemed them by paying the expense of keeping them and any just damages demanded. If the cattle were not redeemed the town had a right to sell the stock to the highest bidder. In October, 1839, Clark Hough leased to the Town of Bozrah a small piece of land adjoining his farm for the sum of two dollars. On this was built a pound, the walls of which are still standing on the farm from which it was leased, and is now owned by S.C. Avery.

In early New England times, if a manufacturing corporation needed a roadway for transporting goods, the company purchased the necessary land and constructed a thoroughfare. The public was allowed to pass over this road on condition that they pay a small fee for this privilege. In order that no one might escape paying this tax, a toll-gate was placed in the road and a gate keeper engaged to collect toll from drivers. This money was used to keep the road in repair, the surplus, if any, paying the expense of building. The road known as the Colchester turnpike between Norwich and Colchester, built through Fitchville and skirting Bozrahville, was constructed by William Fitch. Later it was purchased by the Norwich and Colchester Turnpike Company. In 1867 the turnpike was purchased by the late William F. Bailey who was engaged by the Haywood Rubber Company of Colchester in conveying to Norwich by team their manufactures. He kept about eighty horses to do this trucking and his toll-gate expenses were so large that he decided it would be cheaper to buy the road than to continue paying toll. When the Haywood Rubber Company removed from Colchester Mr. Bailey's teaming enterprise ended and he gave the road to the several towns through which it passed (i.e.) Norwich, Bozrah, Lebanon, Colchester.

For many years Mr. Bailey was one of Bozrah's most prominent citizens. He was born at Scott Hill in 1823, and in 1859 purchased the farm near Bozrahville at present owned by John S. Sullivan. This farm consisted of 340 acres of land with a fine residence and farm buildings. While Mr. Bailey was engaged in the trucking business his place resembled a southern plantation. He kept a store, saw mill, grist mill and blacksmith shop to supply his own needs and the needs of the large number of which he employed. In 1860 Mr. Bailey represented Bozrah in the State Legislature and in 1872 was a member of the Senate.

VII Manufacturing

Besides numbers of small brooks, two large streams of water flow through Bozrah. Pease Brook, known below Bozrahville as the Johnson Brook, enters the town in the northwestern part and flows southeast uniting at Fitchville with the Gardner Brook, which is an outlet of Gardner Lake, at the southwestern part of Bozrah. Early settlers found in these streams energy for turning the wheels of mills and manufacturing took root almost as soon as the white man came. Cams were constructed to increase the force of the water power. At Fitchville, a clover-shaped pond is seen, the bed of which, at one time, was mowing land. Grist mills and saw mills were the first forms of manufacturing attempted. To these mills the farmer brought his corn to be made into meal and the tree trunks from his wood lot to be sawed into timber. Instead of money sometimes a per cent of the meal or lumber was taken as pay for grinding or sawing. Let us now consider the centers where manufacturing began and where, as a result, groups of people located, forming villages.

VIII Bozrahville

In the northwestern part of Bozrah is located the village of Bozrahville which was, at one time in Bozrah's history, a thriving manufacturing village where about four hundred people found employment. Today we see in the place of this once busy center a small courtous business enterprise fighting for existence and success. In place of well-rented houses we see building unoccupied, many of which are fast going to decay. In 1690, John Pease established a

stone mill on his farm bordering Pease Brook and this was the beginning of manufacturing at Bozrahville. In 1817, the Bozrah Manufacturing Company was formed by New Yorkers who furnished the capital and David L. Dodge of Norwich who suggested and managed the enterprise. Under his direction, a stone mill was built for the manufacture of cotton and wollen goods. A thriving business period followed for some ten years, when, because of poor transportation from European manufacturers, the business gradually declined. In 1823, the industry passed into the hand of the Thames Company under whose direction the business was conducted until 1836 when the property was sold to James Boorman and others of New York under the firm name of the Kent Manufacturing Company. As in the early history of Fitchville, transportation was by truck to Norwich and therefore slow and expensive, consequently, when the factory was burned, a company willing to rebuild and operate a mill under such poor transportation conditions was slow in being found and the people without employment or hope of employment were forced to seek homes elsewhere and the village of Bozrahville was abandoned completely for a time. In 1897, operation was again begun in the part of the mill standing. This enterprise was followed in succession by the Fairbanks and Plainfield Company and the present mill operator, A.C. Gilman of New York, who since 1907 has manufactured shoddy here. Only ten or twelve employees are needed for this work.

IX Leffingwell

In the early history of Norwich it often appears as Leppingwell or Leppenwell. This is suggestive of the origin of the name Leaping-Well denoting a bubbling or boiling spring.

Thomas Leffingwell came over from England about 1630 but it is not definitely known when. It is known that he became acquainted with Uncas in 1637. He was a hunter and a man of unusual physical strength. This seemed to have been true of his descendants for a time as we read "Some of the Leffingwells have the renown of having been stalwart men, able horsemen, enterprising, robust, dreadnaught kind of people. They would ride to Boston in a day with a led horse for relief and return on the morrow unconscious of fatigue" Thomas Leffingwell made himself conspicuous in early Connecticut history by the heroic deed mentioned in the beginning of this history. Is there a record anywhere of one who so bravely faced death - a death of the most lingering torments one can conceive - not for the sake of his own family or race but for the savages who were his friends. He was truly great-hearted as well as courageous. He became one of the leading citizens of Norwich, active in military affairs, political life and church work. When Uncas, in 1645, offered to Thomas Leffingwell a tract of land nine miles square as a reward for his services he removed from his home in Saybrook to his new home in Norwich. It was the great-grandsons of this man who became the first settlers of what was called Norwich Plains or Leffingwell Town. Samuel, who lived on what is now the farm of Leland Palmer, represented his section of the town Bozrah at the time of the division of Norwich in 1786. His brothers, it is said, lived on the Chapman and Deacon Rogers places.

Although this is not a manufacturing section yet it can boast of having had two mills. One was located on the brook which is the boundary between Montville and Bozrah and was used for manufacturing wooden works for clocks. This was many years ago for it is not within

the memory of even the oldest inhabitants. The other is the mill now in use which is owned by Forrest Leffingwell. It was built by Samuel Leffingwell probably one hundred and fifty years ago. It is an old-fashioned lumber and grist mill.

The first meeting house was built about 1790 but before this they had preaching in the open air or in private homes. The meeting house was placed on the rocks across from the present one. At first they did not have the means to complete the house, some loose boards thrown on the ground formed the only floor, the benches were slabs with pegs stuck in them, and pulpit was an old box and there was neither lath nor plaster in the house. This was the first Baptist church regularly organized and Elder Rogers their minister, the first Baptist minister ordained within the bounds of the nine mile square of the town of Norwich. One of the men who had much to do with the history of this church was Reverend Christopher Leffingwell. He was born in Bozrah and for twenty years gave his work entirely to the churches of Salem and Bozrah. His church in Leffingwell had great prosperity during his ministry.

In 1873 the old building had become so dilapidated that it seemed impossible to repair it so it could be comfortable. Dean J. C. Leffingwell, one of the members of the building committee, gave the land for the new building and it was largely through his efforts that the money was raised for the building. It was completed and dedicated on Christmas Day of that same year.

X

Fitchville

In the northeastern part of Bozrah, picturesquely located in a valley among wooded hills, lies the thriving, well-kept village of Fitchville. Here, where the Gardner and Pease Brooks unite, iron works were established in 1750 by Nehemiah Waterman and Captain Joshua Abel. It is said that cannon balls manufactured here were used in the Revolution. Those first produced were tested on the hill southeast of the factory - the hill now known as Cannon Hill. This mill was afterward owned and operated by Colonel Asa Fitch, a lineal descendant of Reverend James Fitch, who was born in Bozrah in 1755, where he led an active business life as farmer and iron manufacturer until his death in 1844.

Of his nine children Asa, the fourth born, was destined to lead an unusually eventful and successful life. Born in 1787 in the house still standing opposite the mill and "mansion" grounds, his slender frame and palled countenance gave little promise that he would live to manhood. Moreover he was often prostrated by attacks of asthma, a disease from which he suffered while he lived. He became a student in the Lebanon Academy, a clerk in a Norwich store, a mechanical apprentice, but was obliged to abandon each on account of ill health. At the age of eighteen, thinking his constitution might be benefited by a sea voyage, he embarked as a passenger on a brig going to Newfoundland and Europe on a fishing and trading cruise. He landed at Lisbon in 1805 and finding the climate of southern Europe beneficial he went to Alicante and secured a position in the American Consul's office. He remained at Alicante nine years engaged in mercantile affairs, returning to America once during that time to establish commercial relations, and came gradually to be known as a merchant of financial standing.

In 1814 he removed to Marsailles where he established a commission and banking house through which business between France and the United States was transacted. The best society in France welcomed Mr. Fitch

within its circle and he frequently was entertained by and in turn entertained by nobles, statesmen and literary men of the highest standing. The house continued to flourish and was agent for the United States Navy, furnishing supplies and making payments to government vessels in the Mediterranean. It purchased French goods for American buyers and had agents in the United States to receive consignments from French merchants and manufacturers. Leaving his affairs in France in the hands of his brother Douglas and a nephew in 1828, Asa returned to America to take charge of his business affairs on this side of the Atlantic. He then made real estate purchases in New York City and owned lots on Broadway and New and Exchange streets. On these lots he erected a hotel and stores the rents from which in later years made his income princely.

About 1840 he withdrew from active business life in New York City and made Fitchville his permanent home. His energetic mind transformed his home place into a region of beauty and fertility and he proceeded to put into operation plans, many of which he did not live to execute. He purchased farms adjoining the present village of Fitchville and owned the land for miles west and south. His land on the east and North extended nearly to the Norwich and Franklin boundaries. In this land perhaps one hundred workmen were employed draining, uprooting, removing rocks and turning his rocky domain into fertile fields. These employees received fifty cents per day and traded at the Fitch store where, it is said, no one was refused necessities however great his indebtedness. On his acres of pasture land Mr. Fitch kept a fine herd of cows and supplied the village with milk. In the winter season, when the quantity of milk was small, orders were given that in homes where little children lived milk should be delivered sufficient for their needs. If any were to go unprovided it must be by the grownups, so you see Mr. Fitch was the friend of the little people.

Mr. Fitch now built a stone dam near the iron mill and forced the Pease and Gardner brooks to furnish water power to turn the wheels of a new factory for he had also erected a cotton mill. With his brothers, Stephen and William, he operated this mill until his death in 1865. Mr. Fitch also erected a stone dwelling known as the "mansion", a store, schoolhouse, an amusement hall, grist mill, dwelling houses and green houses, all of stone. He also built the village church. Through the village we find remains of grottoes and fountains and on summit of Cannon Hill the ruins of a kind of outdoor aquarium. The most remarkable building erected by Mr. Fitch was a stone structure known as the "Castle". This was not complete at the time of his death and was afterward torn down, the stone used in its building being placed in the stone mill. About a mile from the village at the railroad crossing northeast of Fitchville he had erected a young ladies' seminary, the stone of which was afterward used in the foundation of the Williams mansion in Yantic. The seminary windows were used also in this Yantic dwelling. Transportation in those days was by truck from Fitchville to Norwich and necessarily slow. Accordingly he graded and prepared a foundation for a spur track from the Northern R.R. to Fitchville. But with this scheme and perhaps a hundred others on foot and unfinished his full and useful life came to a close in 1865.

Since then piece by piece the Asa Fitch land has been sold as farms until only comparatively a few acres belong to the company operating the mill at the present time. After Asa Fitch's death the cotton mill was operated for a time by his brothers but was finally sold to the Waterman Company. This firm was in turn succeeded by the Goddards of Providence who manufactured cotton cloth here until the mill was destroyed by fire in 1884. Following this disaster most of the families moved away and for a time Fitchville was a deserted village.

late in 1884, The Palmer Brothers, who owned and operated quilt mills in Montville and New London, recognizing the fine manufacturing advantages of the village, purchased the site. Since then this mill has been twice enlarged and the railroad, which Mr. Fitch planned, was made a reality. Freight is now received and discharged daily at Fitchville and under the control of the present company, who are public spirited, successful business men, the village has become a thriving manufacturing center in which a prosperous group of people find a comfortable home.

XI

Military Life

When the Revolutionary War broke out Bozrah was a part of Norwich and there is therefore no record of the part Bozrah settlers took in the war. However in Norwich military records we find mention of these Bozrah names: Leffingwell, Hough, Fox, Waterman, and Troop, which leads us to believe that Bozrah was well represented in the army that fought for our independence.

Bozrah furnished fifty-eight men for the Civil War, this being five per cent of the population. Of these, forty-three were private; four, sergeants; seven, corporals; one musician, one veterinary surgeon and two lieutenants. In 1862 W.F. Bailey introduced the following resolution at a town meeting - Resolved; That the Town of Bozrah shall pay a bounty of \$50 to every volunteer who has enlisted since the first of July 1862 or shall hereafter enlist from this town, being resident thereof, pass a medical examination and be sworn into the service of the United States on or before the first day of September, 1862. This was amended to read \$100 and the vote was carried. After the call of President Lincoln in 1864 for 300,000 volunteers the town voted to pay each man who could enlist or procure a substitute the sum of \$300.

Bozrah had two representatives in the Spanish-American War; Samuel A. Gager, Sergeant of the 2nd Co. Signal Corps, U.S. Volunteers and Edward Price who enlisted in a company which went to the Philippines and remained there in the service of the United States for many months.

In conclusion, we wish to say to the Bozrah boys and girls who may read this book, that you are to be the makers of the future history of your town and if opportunity does not give you a chance to serve her as a public agent, resolve that your private life will be such that by your example and right living, Bozrah may have citizens in you that she will be proud to place beside those who lived and worked to make your town's history a tale of the lives of honorable men and women.

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History of Bozrah

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